

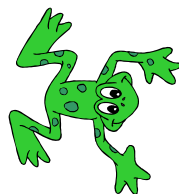
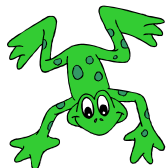
June 2012

The Tool Kit

Kentucky Department of Corrections

Staff Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 6



International Community Corrections Association (ICCA)

On May 6-9, 2012 ICCA hosted a conference at the John Ascuaga's Nugget Conference Center in Reno, Nevada. The subject was "Evidence-Based Sentencing and Navigating the Risk and Needs Principle." Below are highlights of the conference taken from their newsletter:

"Over 30 federal, state, local, territorial and Canadian jurisdictions were represented at the first inaugural ICCA conference on "Evidence-based Sentencing and Navigating the Risk and Needs Principle" in Reno Nevada. Presentation by a blue-ribbon faculty of presenters including judges, probation, community corrections, parole, reentry, prosecutors and public defenders. The meeting provided research and training for teams of criminal justice professionals to learn how to revamp reentry for successful outcomes and cost control.

Sonya Spencer President of ICCA welcomed participants to the meeting and discussed why the subject was important to ICCA with its long history of supporting evidence-based practices. Judge William Dressel, President of the National Judicial College welcomed the group to Reno, and highlighted how to create institutional change in the criminal justice system and problem-solve approaches that work. Judge Roger Warren, President Emeritus of the National Center for State Courts provided an overview of Evidence-based Sentencing in practice and discussed its' relationship to risk and needs principle applications.

Dr. Joshua Lee of the New York University Medical School discussed the neuroscience of addiction, medication assisted treatment and the potential for expanded integrated treatment for justice involved clients. Alicia Kusiak of

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Kentucky Department of Corrections supports art to strengthen families affected by incarceration.....

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“A SECOND CHANCE TO MAKE A FIRST IMPRESSION”

Cook County TASC responded by emphasizing the practical implications and program opportunities presented by the integrated treatment model. Pam Rodriguez highlighted the cultural shift and institutional changes needed to fully implement evidence based treatment options for high risk and needs persons under supervision. Tim Murray called on practitioners to include integrating pretrial assessment for improved justice system outcomes.

Among the researchers who set the stage for the dialogue, James Austin reviewed sentencing trends, effects of treatment and costs. Dr. Austin concluded that assessment at the beginning, middle and end of justice involvement, shorter sentences, and presumptive release dates based on risk for all offenders would help provide better results. He also called for an end to post sentence supervision, and use of prison for technical violations while on parole as options to consider. Dr. Kiminori Nakamura discussed the use of long term actuarial data and the concept of redemption-something which may have implication for risk assessment in sentencing as well as employment and barrier removal for reentering offenders.

Dr. R. Faye Taxman provided an overview of “What Really Counts in Assessing Needs and Risk in Reducing Recidivism.” A model has been developed with the assistance of the Bureau of Justice Assistance that includes: static risk, demographics, criminogenic needs, stabilizers and destabilizers. A new model “CJ Track” is online and will eventually be available.

Ed Latessa provided an overview of research on what works and the risk and needs principle. His presentation used examples from cost and effectiveness studies and suggested ways that all levels of the criminal justice system could improve their outcomes.

Wendy Still, San Francisco County Probation Chief and Lisa Rodriguez, Assistant District Attorney from San Diego discussed the potential of involving criminal justice professionals in innovative programs such as those underway in California under the justice realignment work. Scott Taylor, Multnomah County Community Justice, outlined recent efforts in Oregon and the work of the Criminal Justice Commission to fully implement assessment and statewide evidence-based practices.



Thanks to our Second Chance Act Demonstration Grant funding, Kentucky was able to send a healthy delegation of representatives. All aspects of the reentry effort were represented with positive comments and a gathering of information. After the sessions on Monday the Kentucky delegation met separately to discuss issues and ideas specific for our state. “It’s very rare that Adult Institution Reentry Coordinators and Probation and Parole Reentry Liaisons have the opportunity to interact and share ideas,” said Brigid Adams, Reentry Branch Manager. The discussion resulted in a “*bucket list*” of ideas for future reentry endeavors.

Members of the delegation were encouraged to “brainstorm” and imagine if they could have something that would impact reentry, what would it be? Listed below and on the next page are a few of the ideas that were discussed.

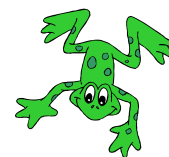
- 1. Day Reporting Centers**
- 2. Standardize and increase “Transitional Living”**

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3. **Technical Violation Centers**
4. **Regional Pre-Release Centers**
5. **Increase Community Custody beds for women**
6. **KY DOC should invest more money in Community Corrections**
7. **Gender specific programming for women (especially in P&P)**
8. **Increase Sex Offender housing and aftercare**
9. **Educate Judges across the state about reentry (AOC)**
10. **More programming directed at working on offenders' criminal peers/friends/companions**
11. **Provide Reentry Liaison's with transportation in all districts**
12. **Increase vocational trades in institutions**
13. **All Reentry Liaisons should have either no caseload or a significant reduction in his/her caseload**
14. **All institutions should have a Reentry housing unit**
15. **All institutions should have a Reentry Task Force (committee) that includes only Institutional folks**
16. **All probation and parole districts should have a Reentry Task Force (committee) that only includes P&P folks**
17. **More support for reentry from Supervisors and Administrative staff (Upper Management)**



ICCA Kentucky Delegates: First row: Mark Stonex, Christi Sorrell, Paige Lutz, Christy Thompson, Lisa Howard, Debbie Kays. Second row: Linda Green, Darrell Wheeler, Marshall Smith, Tom Morriston, Star Smith-Wright, Pamela Bentley, Heather Foster, Cheryl Million and Jessie Ferguson.



Jessie Ferguson, EKCC

Reentry **Reaching Out into the Community**

By Jessie Ferguson

As the Reentry Coordinator at Eastern Kentucky Correctional Complex I have had the opportunity to help offenders that are getting ready to be released and I have also been reaching out to the community for help. While moderating the program “Prison to the Streets” I have had a variety of guest speakers from all over the state. I have four primary guest speakers every month. Those include Kevin Andrews and Erik Caudill from Probation and Parole (District 15), Frankie Spencer a certified CADC from Pathways, and Sidney Castle a Career Advisor from the Workforce Investment Act Board (WIA). All of the guest speakers have great information for the offenders and I have also learned a lot from each of them.

The most recent success is with Gateway Community Action. As mentioned above, I have monthly contact with WIA which is just one program that falls under the “Gateway Community Action” umbrella. I made contact with Ms. Beth Howard in the beginning of January 2012. Beth and several others were hired through federal grants to teach two programs in the community called **“Healthy Marriages and Relationships”** and **“Pathways to Responsible Fatherhood.”** The Healthy Marriages and Relationships classes are designed to improve communication and personal financial skills. The Pathways to Responsible Fatherhood leads participants in improving their parenting skills. Both programs offer job coaching services. These classes are available in Morgan, Montgomery, Rowan, Menifee and Bath counties.

On January 12, 2012, EKCC’s Program Director, Kelly Nickles, myself, and three others from the two grants met to discuss what their programs entailed and how that could impact our inmate population. As a result, they have been approved to teach at Eastern Kentucky Correctional Complex. The first class started on April 23, 2012. They are also reaching out to our Probation & Parole officers in Districts 8 and 15. Ms. Deborah VanNorman is overseeing these grants and realizes the barriers that offenders face after being released from incarceration and those on supervision of some type. Ms. VanNorman and her staff are eager to work with this population, hoping to help them reintegrate successfully back into the community.

“Reentry” is not only happening in the institutions and Jefferson County, but it is also happening in rural Eastern Kentucky as well.

If you know an offender that would be interested in **“Healthy Marriages and Relationships”** and/or **“The Pathways to Responsible Fatherhood Program”** that will be returning to **Morgan, Montgomery, Rowan, Menifee or Bath** counties please have them contact (606) 743-3133 after release. These classes are free, have no income guidelines, are voluntary, and available to all regardless of race, gender, age, disability or religion. Foothills Community Action is offering these programs in **Madison, Clark, Estill and Powell** counties. Their staff can be reached at (859) 624-2046, ext. 205.

MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



QUESTION: What are the basic principles of evidence-based practice?

ANSWER: Three basic principles of evidence-based practice have been gathered from the scientific research about what works to reduce recidivism among offenders under community supervision: 1) the risk principle; 2) the needs principle, and 3) the treatment principle.

QUESTION: What do we mean by an “intervention”?

ANSWER: Intervention refers to any planned activity to change offender behavior which can include a rehabilitation program, probation supervision practice, or even a judge’s courtroom conversation with the offender-if undertaken for that purpose.

QUESTION: What are “static” and “dynamic” risk factors?

ANSWER: First, “risk factors” are offender characteristics that are associated with higher likelihood of future criminality. “Static” risk factors are risk factors such as age, gender, age at first arrest and prior criminal history that predict future criminality and cannot be changed or reduced in order to reduce the risk of re-offense. Risk of recidivism is dynamic; it changes over time, increasing and decreasing in light of changing circumstances in an offender’s life and choices made by the offender. Risk is also changeable: it can be changed by effective intervention. “Dynamic risk factors (also known as “criminogenic needs”) refer to those risk factors that predict future criminality but that also can be changed or reduced in order to reduce the risk of re-offense.

**Kentucky Department of Corrections Supports Art
To Strengthen Families Affected by Incarceration**

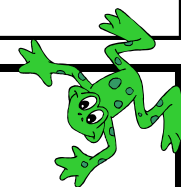


Change often begins with imagining a new way of doing things. In the case of the mural pictured above, now permanently installed in the exit lobby of the Louisville Metro Jail, change began as a visionary concept by dedicated corrections officers who believed that art has a place in the halls of justice.

As the officers imagined art inside the jail, a mother participating in video visitations with her incarcerated son envisioned how art activities could make the visitors lobby more welcoming and supportive of children and families impacted by incarceration. Initially unconnected, these two great ideas merged in 2007 – thanks to the generous anonymous donation of the mother and the support of art-friendly allies within the Louisville Metro Department of Corrections.

Today, an innovative approach to strengthening families affected by incarceration is beginning to emerge as a result of a unique partnership between the Kentucky Foundation for Women (KFW) and its local and state-level allies in the Department of Corrections. Incorporating great ideas in 2007 led to KFW commissioning two highly skilled visual artists to collaborate with more than one hundred people, including jail staff, incarcerated persons and their loved ones, to identify positive images that evoke the importance of family, nurture hope and new beginnings. The result is this magnificent tile mosaic—created with the assistance of more

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than 300 community members – and a new partnership between the world of corrections, and the world of philanthropic art activities for positive social change.

From within the Louisville Metro Department of Corrections (LMDC), interim director, Tom Campbell, and social worker, Linda Zundel worked enthusiastically to help cultivate a spirit of trust and mutual respect between the corrections community and the broader community. As the mural began to take shape, KFW contracted with Monica L. Williams, a gifted artist who combines her academic training in theater and social change at New York University with more than five years experience at the Osborne Association, working with children of incarcerated parents.

Ms. Williams, whose main work is based in Brooklyn, came to Louisville and met with KFW and LMDC staff, and began designing a one-of-a-kind program in which KFW-sponsored artists would be trained to facilitate activities and create art with families and children in the visitors lobby of the jail. Based on her artistic training and on-the-ground experience, Williams developed concepts for empowerment techniques that art leaders could use to develop successful curricula that would address both the risk and protective factors that impact children of incarcerated parents.

In the 1990s, Dr. Emmy E. Werner, a noted child psychologist, began researching and identifying “protective factors” to help children affected by “risk factors” such as the incarceration of a parent or loved one. Researchers soon began to see the importance of creating and strengthening multiple protective factors for these children, and their families. Further research is showing that arts-based activities are powerful ways to build family strengths.

Since 2000, the Annie E. Casey Foundation has researched and documented the often-overlooked impact of incarceration on children and families of incarcerated persons. (See “Children of Incarcerated Parents” on their website, www.aecf.org). Evidence shows that children of incarcerated parents are more likely to suffer from family financial instability, problems at school, and social stigmatizing. While the Casey Foundation primarily focuses its research on prisons, their statistics hold true for patterns observed in many jails throughout Kentucky.

There are disparate impacts on families of color, with African-American and Hispanic children more likely to have an incarcerated parent than white children.

The average age of children with an incarcerated parent is 8 years old, with 22 % of the children under age 5.

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“A SECOND CHANCE TO MAKE A FIRST IMPRESSION”

The continued generosity of the anonymous donor allowed for the creation of the Kentucky Foundation for Women’s “Special Project,” an on-going arts-based family strengthening program, operated in partnership with the Louisville Metro Department of Corrections. Monica Williams facilitated the inaugural training session for eighteen Kentuckiana artists who expressed a sincere interest for working with children and families in the visitors lobby of the Louisville Metro jail. The art-activities leaders familiarized themselves with proven empowerment techniques, and were guided to design curricula for art activities that would strengthen, and build upon, multiple protective factors.

Training sessions also included information about the US criminal justice system, and the stigma affecting children of incarcerated parents. Ms. Williams stressed the importance of respecting all persons in the visitors lobby: corrections officers, jail staff, visiting spouses, children, extended family and care-givers. Her expertise enabled art-activities leaders to discover creative and effective ways to engage with LMDC staff and visitors, achieve cooperation and build trust while making art in a highly unique setting.

Monica Williams reviewed all proposed activities to guarantee they adhered to the strengthening factors outlined in the Casey Foundation’s ground-breathing research, as well as holding fast to artistic quality and protective factor integrity. In 2008, teams of two art-activities leaders began working in the visitors lobby every Sunday night, a time slot with a high rate of family visitation. Today, four years later, the art teams continue to present activities every Sunday evening, reporting highly positive responses from visiting families and LMDC staff. Each week, the two team members write up their “reflections” on how well the activities worked, noting any problems or concerns, and identifying opportunities for improvement.

Here is a scene described on one Sunday evening:



An eight-year-old boy sits at a plastic folding table, working intently on creating a “charm bracelet.” He draws small pictures of himself, family members and loved ones to cut out and paste on a yarn band he has just woven with the help of an arts-activities leader. When he tries to paste some of the small pictures on the yarn, they crinkle up and won’t lie flat. Seeing his frustration, a nearby teenager offers to help, holding the small pictures straight while the boy applies the paste. The boy tells the teenager about each of the people he has drawn as he carefully places the pictures on his bracelet.

An experienced art-activities leader reports, “There are several families who now know us very well. When they see us with the art box, they are eager to get started. Sometimes new visitors hesitate to approach the table; but once they begin, they demonstrate a certain confidence that shows itself through beaming pride. Although some caregivers say it’s ‘for the kids,’ many of them make art, too, and exclaim how proud they are after they complete an activity. Additionally, we are establishing levels of trust with the young people there. They know each artist by

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name and often begin conversations where they left off the previous time we saw them. The art activities create a more welcoming environment and increase positive factors of accomplishment as visitors of all ages and backgrounds learn new skills and create art they can show their incarcerated loved one via video and take home and share with others.”

KFW’s Special Project has received contributions from two local churches and several individuals, including two incarcerated individuals. Ms. Williams still serves as National Artistic Director to the Special Project, and remains committed to its further development.

Beginning in January, 2012, KFW embarked on a partnership with the Kentucky Department of Corrections to educate the larger community about the power of art to strengthen families and serve as an integral part of successful reentry. In cooperation with two Re-Investment Neighborhood Groups (RINGs) in the Shawnee and Newburg areas of Louisville, the Kentucky Foundation for Women’s Special Project is expanding its activities to community-based settings and its vision to strengthen the protective factors in children after they’re reunited with formerly incarcerated parents.

Collaboration with highly respected and well-established youth and family-oriented service organizations is a key factor in introducing art-based activities to families in these areas. KFW does not withhold any of the contributed funds for administrative costs; all funds are applied directly to strengthening families and to the crucial reentry work being done in the Louisville Metro area. Special Project staff and art-activities team members invest over thirty cumulative hours a month exploring collaborative opportunities, creating and fine-tuning artistic programming, and facilitating family bonding activities with the children and families who are committed to supporting their loved ones during, and after, incarceration.

If you would like more information about the Special Project, and its ongoing dedication to the health and wholeness of Kentucky’s families who are impacted by incarceration, please contact KFW executive director, Judi Jennings at Judi@Kfw.org.



Two close up shots of the large mural on page 6 that is in the exit lobby of the Louisville Metro Jail.

